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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Third session
11-28 April 1995
Agenda item 10

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Chapter __

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 28 April 1995. The Commission held __ meetings (1st to __ meetings).

2. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Klaus Töpfer (Germany).

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed the Commission.

4. An introductory statement was made by the Co-Chairperson of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development.

5. In accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 14 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, the Commission held, on 26, 27 and 28 April 1995, a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to provide for an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and commitments contained therein (see chap. __).

B. Attendance

6. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1993/207, the Commission is composed of 53 members elected from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies.

7. The session was attended by __ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, the European Community, and two non-member States and the representatives of the Secretariat, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and observers for intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex __ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, on 11 April 1995, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti (Brazil)

Vice-Chairmen: Yordan Uzunov (Bulgaria)
Magnus Johannesson (Iceland)
Takao Shibata (Japan)
Henry Aryamanya-Mugisha (Uganda)

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 April 1995, Mr. Yordan Uzunov (Bulgaria) was elected to serve also as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda and organization of work

10. At the 1st meeting, on 11 April 1995, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.17/1995/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. General discussion on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on the cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21, and the critical elements of sustainability.

4. Financial resources and mechanisms.

5. Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building.

6. Review of sectoral cluster: Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity.

7. Other matters.

8. High-level meeting.

9. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its third session.

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Addendum

Chapter ___

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at the 4th, 6th, 7th and ___ meetings, on 12, 13 and ___ April 1995. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the role and contribution of major groups (E/CN.17/1995/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on trade, environment and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/12);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1995/13);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/14);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (E/CN.17/1995/15);

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(f) Report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making and Earthwatch (E/CN.17/1995/18);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1995/19);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on policy issues that may be addressed at the high-level meeting of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/1995/21);

(i) Report of the High-Level Meeting on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (E/CN.17/1995/23);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on national information (E/CN.17/1995/24);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and of the World Food Programme in sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/28);

(l) Letter dated 18 March 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a brief summary report of the Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development for Decision-Making held in Ghent, Belgium, from 9 to 11 January 1995 (E/CN.17/1995/32);

(m) Letter dated 12 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1995/35).

2. At the 4th meeting, on 12 April 1995, introductory statements were made by the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director, Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

3. At the 6th meeting, on 13 April 1995, introductory statements were also made by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and by representatives of the Secretariat as well as of the Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat.

4. During the consideration of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, France (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Brazil, Canada, the United States of America, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Morocco, Malaysia, Belgium, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, China, Australia, Belarus, the Philippines, Japan, Mexico, Bulgaria,

Iceland, Uruguay, Venezuela and Tunisia, as well as by the observers for Norway, Algeria, Costa Rica, Sweden, Ecuador, Israel and the European Community.

5. A statement was also made by the observer for Switzerland.

6. A statement was made by the representative of the World Bank.

7. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations: the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women's Environment and Development Organization, and by two non-governmental organizations accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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Chapter ___

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

1. At the 2nd, 5th and ___ meetings, on 11, 12 and __ April 1995, the Commission considered item 4 of its agenda. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanism for sustainable development: overview of current issues and developments (E/CN.17/1995/8);

(b) Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/1995/11);

(c) Letter dated 24 February 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Second Expert Group Meeting on Financial Issues of Agenda 21, held at Glen Cove, New York, 15-17 February 1995 (E/CN.17/1995/29).

2. The Commission heard a statement by the Chairman of the Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

3. The Commission then heard presentations by members on a panel, consisting of Dr. Lin See-Yan (Chairman of the Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance),

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Mr. Nitin Desai (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), Mr. Grzegorz Kolodko (Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland), Mr. Andrew Steer (World Bank), Mr. Vito Tanzi (IMF), Ms. Hilary Thompson (Director for Environmental Management (Westminster National Bank) and Mr. Maximo Kalaw (Chairman, Green Forum of the Philippines), followed by a question and answer period.

4. At the 5th meeting, on 12 April 1995, the Commission held a general discussion of the item jointly with item 6, "Review of sectoral cluster: Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity" (see E/CN.17/1995/L.1/Add.4, para. 2).

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Chile, China, Canada, Malaysia, Brazil, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Iceland, Mexico, the United States of America, France, Uganda, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan, as well as by the observer for Algeria.

6. A statement was also made by the observer for Switzerland.

7. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made a statement.

8. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Greenpeace International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II.

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Chapter ___

EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at the 8th, 9th and ___ meetings, on 17 and __ April 1995. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on science for sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/16);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/1995/17);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of biotechnology (E/CN.17/1995/20);

(d) Letter dated 22 February 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the Workshop on the Promotion of Access to and Dissemination of Information on Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs), held at Seoul from 30 November to 2 December 1994 (E/CN.17/1995/30).

2. At the 8th meeting, on 17 April 1995, introductory statements were made by the task managers of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the representative of the United Nations Secretariat.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, India, Brazil, Malaysia, the United States of America, Pakistan, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Canada, as well as by the observers for the Czech Republic and the observer for Switzerland.

4. Statements were made by the observers for the International Council of Scientific Unions (a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II, and the Third World Network (a non-governmental organization accredited to the Commission).

5. At the 9th meeting, on 17 April 1995, statements were made by the representatives of China, Tunisia, Australia, Bangladesh, the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Morocco, Indonesia, Barbados, Mexico and Japan.

6. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Algeria and Colombia.

7. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization made a statement.

8. A statement was made by the observer of the African Timber Organization, an intergovernmental organization.

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Chapter ___

REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS: LAND, DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY

1. At the 3rd, 5th and ___ meetings, on 12 and __ April 1995, the Commission considered item 6 of its agenda. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/1995/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on "Combating deforestation" and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (E/CN.17/1995/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (E/CN.17/1995/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1995/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (E/CN.17/1995/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/1995/7);

(g) Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/1995/10);

(h) Note by the Secretariat transmitting a statement of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (E/CN.17/1995/27);

(i) Letter dated 3 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Workshop on Integrated Land Management, held in the Netherlands, 20-22 February 1995 (E/CN.17/1995/33).

2. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 April 1995, the Commission heard statements by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the Chairperson of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Israel.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard presentations by members of a panel consisting of Sir Martin Holdgate (Chairman of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues), His Excellency the Honourable John Falloon (Minister of Forestry of New Zealand and Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), Mr. Franz Fischler (European Commissioner for Agriculture), Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. David Harcharick (Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and Mr. Graham Blight (President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

5. At the 5th meeting, on 12 April 1995, the Commission held a general discussion on the item jointly with item 4 (see E/CN.17/1995/L.1/Add.2, para. 3).

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